

Appl. No. 10/084,608
Amdt. Dated October 5, 2006
Reply to Office Action of July 5, 2006

Attorney Docket No. 81784.0253
Customer No. 26021

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 14-16 and 20-25 are pending, with claims 20-25 having been withdrawn. In paragraph 3 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,724,452 of Takeda et al.

Takeda has a filing date of June 12, 1998 which is later than Applicant's priority date of October 1, 1997. Applicant is enclosing an English translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 9-268973 in order to perfect the priority claim, and thereby remove Takeda as a reference.

In the Office Action Summary which is included with the Office Action of July 5, 2006, acknowledgment is made of Applicant's claim for foreign priority. It is indicated that certified copies of the priority document have been received in Application No. 09/162,984. Applicant is enclosing a certified translation of the priority document in order to perfect the foreign priority claim. With such claim having been so perfected, Takeda should now be removed as a basis for rejection of claims 14-16, so that claims 14-16 should now be allowable.

In conclusion, claims 14-16 should now be allowable for the reasons set forth above. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

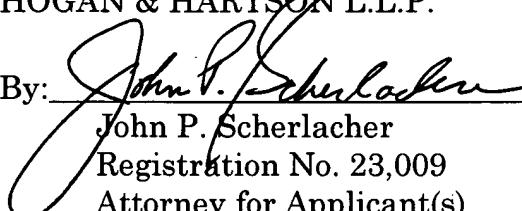
Appl. No. 10/084,608
Amdt. Dated October 5, 2006
Reply to Office Action of July 5, 2006

Attorney Docket No. 81784.0253
Customer No. 26021

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: October 5, 2006

By: 
John P. Scherlacher
Registration No. 23,009
Attorney for Applicant(s)

1999 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1400
Los Angeles, California 90067
Phone: (310) 785-4600
Fax: (310) 785-4601